The National Development Council (NDC) in its 53rd meeting held on 29th May, 2007 has also imphasized to evolve a strategy to rejuvenate agriculture. It involves, *inter alia*, the following crucial elements:

- The State Governments are to prepare District and State Agriculture Plans for prioritizing the investment in the sector.
- Introduction of a new scheme for Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to State Plans. The newly created National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) would assist States in planning for rainfed areas.
- Provision of additional resources for irrigation.
- Strategic focus on the national agricultural research effort.
- New initiatives for skill development for the farming community.

The Government of India has recently approved two schemes for enhancement of foodgrains productivity and production and for improving overall growth of agriculture. These are: (i) National Food Security Mission (NFSM), and (ii) Additional Central Assistance Scheme (ACAS) for implementing the State and District Plans for agricultural development.

Price for gas from RIL's KG Basin

*191. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry had worked out any realistic price for gas from RIL's KG Basin in order to enable them to be more competitive globally;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether any interaction has been done with other Ministries in this regard and if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) has been set up by the Government to examine and decide issues of gas pricing.

Completed projects pending for traffic

*192. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long pending broad gauge conversion between Rameswaram and Manamadurai is completed in all respects;

(b) if so, whether it is pending to be thrown open for traffic for want of inauguration by a VIP;